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United Nations Children's Fund
Executive Board
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Item 8 (b) of the provisional agenda*

Extensions of ongoing country programmes

Note by the secretariat

Summary

In accordance with Executive Board decision 2009/11, this note informs the Executive Board of the two-month extension of the country programme for Jordan; the six-month extension of the country programme for South Sudan; the first one-year extensions of the country programmes for the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Lesotho, Liberia, Nicaragua, the Syrian Arab Republic and Zambia; and the first one-year extension of the Gulf Area subregional programme (Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates), all approved by the Executive Director.

The note further presents the reasons for the proposed two-month extensions of the country programmes for Cabo Verde, Ghana and Mauritania, following one-year extensions; the proposed one-year extension of the country programme for Libya, following three one-year extensions; the proposed 15-month extension of the country programme for South Africa; and the proposed two-year extension of the country programme for Yemen, following two one-year extensions. The Executive Board is requested to approve these programme extensions.

Draft decision

* E/ICEF/2017/14.

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The Executive Board

1. *Takes note* of the two-month extension of the country programme for Jordan; the six-month extension of the country programme for South Sudan; the first one-year extensions of the country programmes for the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Lesotho, Liberia, Nicaragua, the Syrian Arab Republic and Zambia; and the first one-year extension of the Gulf Area subregional programme (Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates), which were approved by the Executive Director and are presented in table 1.

2. *Approves* the two-month extensions of the country programmes for Cabo Verde, Ghana and Mauritania, following one-year extensions; the one-year extension of the country programme for Libya, following three one-year extensions; the 15-month extension of the country programme for South Africa; and the two-year extension of the country programme for Yemen, following two one-year extensions, as presented in table 2.

Table 1
First extensions of one year (or less) of ongoing country programmes approved by the Executive Director

UNICEF-supported country programme	*Original programme period*	*Year/period approved for extension*	*Reasons for the extension*
Democratic Republic of the Congo	2013-2017	2018 *one-year extension*	– To align with the one-year extension of the current United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF; 2013-2017), as endorsed by the national Government and approved by the regional United Nations Development Group (UNDG) team. – To maintain the focus on humanitarian response, transition and development as the context of political instability improves. – To allow for the preparation of the new UNDAF and country programme document (CPD) in accordance with the time frame of the United Nations country team (UNCT).
Equatorial Guinea	2013-2017	2018 *one-year extension*	– To align with the one-year extension of the current UNDAF (2013-2017), as endorsed by the national Government and approved by the regional UNDG team. – To establish a bridge that will align the next UNDAF and CPD for the 2019-2023 cycle.
Gulf Area subregional programme (Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates)	2014-2017	2018 *one-year extension*	– To support the achievement of planned results in Saudi Arabia, in coordination with the newly established Family Affairs Council, and in alignment with new emerging government priorities in consideration of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. – To review cooperation arrangements with the Gulf States, and reengage with the Governments of Bahrain, Kuwait and Qatar on areas of partnership in contribution to their national development plans. Collectively, these actions will better position UNICEF to facilitate the articulation of the next Gulf Area subregional programme.
Jordan	2013-2017	January-February 2018 *two-month extension*	– To harmonize with the ongoing formulation of the next UNDAF (2018-2022) as well as the new country programmes for the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). The country programmes for current UNDAF agencies, including for UNICEF, UNDP and UNFPA within the UNDG, have been extended until the end of February 2018. – A new CPD for 2018-2022 will be presented at the first regular session of the UNICEF Executive Board in February 2018.

UNICEF-supported country programme	*Original programme period*	*Year/period approved for extension*	*Reasons for the extension*
Lesotho	2013-2017	2018 *one-year extension*	– To align with the extension of the National Strategic Development Plan 2012/13-2016/17 until 2018. – To harmonize with the request from the UNCT to extend the Lesotho United Nations Development Assistance Plan 2013-2017 by one year, until 2018.
Liberia	2013-2017	2018 *one-year extension*	– To align with the extension of the National Development and Poverty Strategy, *Agenda for Transformation 2012-2017*, which will be extended for one year. – To allow sufficient time for the implementation of activities that had been suspended during the outbreak of the Ebola virus under the current country programme document. – To allow for consultation with the incoming Government administration, which will take office in January 2018 following national elections scheduled for November 2017. – To align with the one-year extension of the UNDAF 2013-2017 and the One Programme that was approved by the Government and now covers the period 2013 to 2018.
Nicaragua	2013-2017	2018 *one-year extension*	– To allow for a harmonized approach with other United Nations agencies to extend the country programme for one year. – To allow time for the completion of the programming process.
South Sudan	July 2016 – June 2018	December 2018 *six- month extension*	– To align with the extended United Nations Interim Cooperation Framework (initially agreed to operate between January 2016 and December 2017), which will be in place until 31 December 2018. – To engage in the design of a full-fledged UNDAF that is aligned with the new national development plan. – To coordinate with the UNCT in supporting the delayed implementation of the 2015 peace agreement.
Syrian Arab Republic	March 2016-December 2017	2018 *one-year extension*	– To align with the one-year extension of the current Strategic Framework for Cooperation between the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic and the United Nations (UNSF; 2016-2017), as endorsed by the national Government and approved by the UNCT. – To harmonize UNICEF cooperation with that of UNDP, UNFPA and the World Food Programme (WFP), which are also recommending one-year extensions to

UNICEF-supported country programme	*Original programme period*	*Year/period approved for extension*	*Reasons for the extension*
			align with the extended UNSF. – To facilitate the preparation of a comprehensive UNSF that will ensure interlinkages and complementarities with the Humanitarian Response Plan.
Zambia	2016-2020	2021 *one-year extension*	– To guarantee timely and comprehensive alignment with the Seventh National Development Plan (2017-2021). – To maintain harmonized cooperation with United Nations agencies and the Government within the current United Nations Sustainable Development Partnership Framework (2016-2021).

Table 2
Extensions of ongoing country programmes for which the approval of the Executive Board is requested

UNICEF-supported country programme	*Original programme period, including previous extensions*	*Period proposed for extension*	*Reasons for extension*		
			In-country development	*United Nations harmonization*	*Implementation or other issues*
Cabo Verde	2012-2016 (Previously extended to 2017)	January-February 2018 *two-month extension*	The electoral period, and subsequent administrative and political transitions, have caused delays in the national planning calendar.	The requested extension will allow finalization of the new CPD and facilitate alignment with the formulation of the next UNDAF. These processes are ongoing, due to delays in the formulation of the country's National Plan for Sustainable Development.	– The extension will support a harmonized approach within the context of the common country programme document (CCPD); UNICEF is part of a joint office with UNFPA and UNDP in Cabo Verde. – A new CCPD will be presented at the first regular session of the Executive Board in February 2018.
Ghana	2012-2016 (Previously extended to 2017)	January-February 2018 *two-month extension*	The Government has requested that the new UNDAF, 2018-2021 be aligned to the country's new National Medium Term Plan for 2018-2021.	The extension will allow finalization of the preparation of a new CPD and alignment with the formulation of the new UNDAF. These processes are ongoing, due to delays in the national planning calendar of the host country.	– Implementation will be in alignment with the National Medium Term Plan for 2018-2021 and the upcoming strategic framework. – A new CPD will be presented at the first regular session of the Executive Board in February 2018.
Libya	2013-2014 (Previously extended three times for one	2018 *one-year extension*	The Government of Libya has granted a one-year extension of the current UNSF, as well as of the CPDs of UNICEF and	The UNCT heads of agencies agreed to adjust the time frame of the current UNSF until December 2018, to better respond to the current context	– Considering the new time frame of the UNSF, the current CPD must reflect short-term alignment with the current UNSF time

UNICEF-supported country programme	*Original programme period, including previous extensions*	*Period proposed for extension*	*Reasons for extension*		
			In-country development	*United Nations harmonization*	*Implementation or other issues*
	year until 2017)		UNDP.	and move forward in identifying the country's recovery and development priorities, which are to be included in the new UNSF for 2019-2020.	frame, as well as with the long-term perspective of a new UNSF for 2019-2020.
Mauritania	2012-2016 (Previously extended to 2017)	January-February 2018 *two-month extension*	The UNCT and the Government advanced in formulating the UNDAF results matrix, yet it has not been finalized and approved.	The extension will allow finalization of the preparation of a new CPD and alignment with the formulation of the new UNDAF.	– To be fully aligned with the national development strategy (the national Strategy for Accelerated Growth and Shared Prosperity 2016-2030), which was adopted in April 2017.
South Africa	2013-2017	March 2019 *fifteen-month extension*	The UNCT has decided to extend the United Nations Strategic Cooperation Framework (UNSCF) 2013-2017 by fifteen months, from 1 January 2018 to 31 March 2019.	The extension of the CPD will allow for alignment with the extended UNSCF, which has been endorsed by the national Government and approved by the regional UNDG team.	– United Nations cooperation will align with the government's fiscal year and the formulation of the next Medium Term Strategic Framework, 2020-2025.
Yemen	2012-2015 (Previously extended twice for one year, until 2017)	2018-2019 *two-year extension*	The Level 3 corporate emergency response status for Yemen was against extended by UNICEF in December 2016. A new development plan is expected to be available in 2019.	The extension of the CPD will allow for alignment with the UNDAF, which has been extended by two years (2018 and 2019), as endorsed by the UNCT.	– This submission represents the third extension request to the original CPD, 2012-2015. UNICEF Yemen previously asked for extensions for 2016 and 2017.